

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's response in view of the amendments and/or remarks filed on October 29, 2009 have been carefully reviewed and respectfully considered. Applicant's arguments in view of amendment made by applicant are believed to be persuasive and the rejection of the previous office action has been withdrawn.

Upon further review and search, Claims 1 through 13 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP §2111.01 or Toro Co. v. White Consolidated Industries Inc., 199 F.3d 1295, 1301, 53 USPQ2d 1065, 1069 (Fed. Cir. 1999), none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 12 and 13, as further, discussed below:

Referring to claims 1-3 and 10, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing system which can code image data, form a JPEG2000 file, and transmit the JPEG2000 file to a plurality of destinations, comprising: a designator which designates a first region present in the JPEG2000 file and a second region present in the JPEG2000 file, said second region is different from said first region; a processor, coupled to a memory, that is programmed to replace code data constituting said first region with code data which make pieces of information included in the first region invisible in the JPEG2000 file to be transmitted to a first destination and replaces-replace code data constituting said second region with code data which make pieces of information included in the second region invisible in the JPEG2000 file to be transmitted to a second destination; and a transmitter which transmits the JPEG2000 files processed by the replace to the first and second destinations, respectively.

Referring to claims 4-7 and 11, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing system which can code image data, form a JPEG2000 file, and transmit the JPEG2000 file to a plurality of destinations, comprising: a designator which designates a first region present in the JPEG2000 file and a second region present in the JPEG2000 file, said second region is different from said first region; a processor, coupled to a memory, that is programmed to reduce a data amount of code data constituting said first region in the JPEG2000 file to be transmitted to a first destination and ~~reduces~~-reduce a data amount of code data constituting said second region in the JPEG2000 file to be transmitted to a second designation; and a transmitter which transmits the JPEG files processed by the data amount reducer to the first and second destinations, respectively.

Referring to claim 8, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing method for coding image data, forming a JPEG2000 file, and transmitting the JPEG2000 file to a plurality of destinations, the method comprising steps of: designating a first region present in the image data and a second region present in the image data, said second region is different from said first region; replacing, using a processor, code data constituting said first region with code data which make pieces of information included in the first region invisible in the JPEG2000 file transmitted to a first destination and replacing code data constituting said second region with code data which make pieces of information included in the second region invisible in the JPEG2000 file transmitted to a second destination; transmitting the processed JPEG2000 files to the destinations.

Referring to claim 9, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing method for coding image data, forming a JPEG2000 file, and transmitting the JPEG2000 file to a plurality of destinations, the method comprising steps of: designating a first region present in the image data and a second region present in the image data, said second region is different from said first region; reducing, using a processor, a data amount of code data constituting said first region in the JPEG2000 file transmitted to a first destination and reducing a data amount of code data

constituting said second region in the JPEG2000 file transmitted to a second destination; and transmitting the processed JPEG files to the destinations.

Referring to claim 12, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing method for coding image data, forming a JPEG2000 file, and transmitting the JPEG2000 file to a plurality of destinations, the method comprising steps of: relating a plurality of regions preset in the image data to destinations; loading the JPEG2000 file; replacing, using a processor, code data constituting one of regions corresponding to one destination with code data which make pieces of information included in the region invisible in the JPEG2000 file transmitted to said one destination; transmitting the processed JFEG2000 file to said one destination; and repeating said steps of loading, replacing and transmitting until all regions are reduced and transmitted to all destinations.

Referring to claim 13, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing method for coding image data, forming a JPEG2000 file, and transmitting the JPEG2000 file to a plurality of destinations, the method comprising steps of relating a plurality of regions preset in the image data to destinations; loading the JPEG2000 file; reducing, using a processor, a data amount of code data constituting one of regions corresponding to one destination in the JPEG2000 file transmitted to said one destination; transmitting the processed JFEG2000 file to said one destination; repeating said steps of loading, replacing and transmitting until all regions are reduced and transmitted to all destinations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NEGUSSIE WORKU whose telephone number is (571)272-7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Negussie Worku/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625